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January 29, 2024

Honorable City Council:

Re: Trash Hauling Contracts

As Your Honorable Body considers the merit of approving the two (2) trash hauling contracts that will increase the service levels above what is currently being received, I would also like to share with you other mechanisms that are being placed to improve the overall cleanliness and aesthetics of the City.

As a reminder, these contracts if approved, will provide for weekly collection of bulk, yard waste, recyclables, and the weekly removal of debris from the front of vacant properties. Each of these services represents an increase over the current provided level.

In addition to providing increased service levels, the department will also be expanding efforts to (1) obtain greater compliance from those who have chosen to illegally dump in the past, and (2) increasing the numbers of residents that choose to participate in recycling. These efforts will be accomplished via the following:

Residential Compliance and Adherence to Requirements

- Prior to new contracts taking effect on June 1, 2024, both contractors will provide educational material to all households they will be servicing, informing them of collection day schedules, as well as Do's and Don'ts for correctly placing out trash, bulk, yard waste, and recyclables.
- The City will reinforce the message of disposing of trash correctly and not littering via community meetings, digital/social media, billboards, cable, radio ads, and other marketing means. \$355,000 has been allocated for the Keep Detroit Clean outreach effort for the remainder of the current fiscal year. Additional funding will be budgeted in FY 25 to continue the educational efforts.
- Enforcement will be enhanced via BSEED's efforts to fill all existing vacancies. In addition, a new environmental enforcement position is being added to the budget to focus solely on "nuisance" violations, such as residents choosing to leave containers at curbside long after their scheduled collection day.
- Continued commitment to identifying, via surveillance cameras, and holding responsible those individuals who choose to come into our city to illegally dump debris. DPD will be expanding this initiative to add more cameras to frequent illegal dumping locations.

While we certainly understand the value of providing increased levels of service, we recognize that having a truly clean city requires the commitment from all of us, and we recognize that correctional enforcement is a needed component to achieve this objective.

MICHAEL DUGGAN, MAYOR

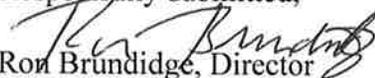
Increased Recycling

Currently, over 40% of Detroit's households have opted into our curbside recycling program, where recyclables are collected on a bi-weekly basis. As we look at transitioning to weekly collection, we will also be exploring how we can (1) get more households to opt-in and (2) how we can increase the amount of recycling while reducing the amount of non-recyclable material (contamination) that is placed in the containers. We will accomplish this objective by:

- Working with local advocates and partners, such as Green Living Science and the Green Task Force Committee to educate our residents on the importance of recycling, and how it can be easily done correctly.
- Continue to utilize grant funds to pay for recycling containers, and to waive the \$25 fee that residents must pay to receive a recycling cart.
- Hold workshops and community meetings.
- Use data to identify low participating areas of the city; in 2024, we will hold 10 canvassing events to target 2500 households that currently do not recycle.
- Provide 20 high school students with a stipend to learn about recycling, and to become ambassadors in their schools and neighborhoods.

We feel that these efforts, combined with the opportunity to recycle weekly under the new contracts, will result in a higher volume of recycling occurring in the City of Detroit.

Respectfully submitted,


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